

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02818 041017Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 AF-10 IO-14 DRC-01

(ISO) W

----- 038135

R 040925Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6498

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2818

FROM HOUGHTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJ: GOE DENIAL OF LIBYAN ALLEGATIONS

REF: CAIRO 2689

1. MAY 4 CAIRO PRESS REPORTS TRIPOLI RADIO BROADCAST OF PREVIOUS DAY ALLEGING THAT SADAT HAS "STRONGLY APOLOGIZED" TO CERTAIN LIBYAN LEADERS FOR PUBLICATION OF RECENT COMPLETELY UNTRUE EGYPTIAN PRESS ARTICLES. REPORT ADDS THAT, ACCORDING TO TRIPOLI RADIO, LIBYAN OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED SADAT THAT IF THEY WANTED TO ACT AGAINST HIM THEY WOULD DO SO DIRECTLY AND OPENLY.

2. CAIRO PRESS THEN PUBLISHES STATEMENT BY "RESPONSIBLE SOURCE" IN GOE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TO EFFECT THAT NEITHER SADAT NOR ANY OTHER EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANY LIBYAN REGARDING ANY APOLOGY WHATSOEVER, AND THAT MATTER IS A "DOWNRIGHT BASELESS FABRICATION IN GENERAL AND IN DETAIL". GOE SOURCE IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SADAT HIMSELF HAS CALLED FOR EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE CONTINUITY OF ARAB
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02818 041017Z

SOLIDARITY AND BROTHERHOOD, AND FOR AVOIDANCE OF THOSE WHO

"FALL INTO DISTRACTIONS AND SIDE-ISSUES WHICH DO NOT SERVE
ARAB SECURITY..."

3. COMMENT: REFUTATION OF TRIPOLI BROADCAST IS COUCHED IN
VERY STRONG TERMS, BUT GENERAL TONE OF STATEMENT IS ONE OF
DISDAIN. THERE ARE NO COUNTERCHARGES AGAINST GOL, THEREBY
MAINTAINING A POLICY WHICH HAS APPARENTLY BEEN IN EFFECT
SINCE QUDDUS'S WARNING OF APRIL 27 (REFTEL) OF NOT FURTHER
TYING GOL OR QADHAAFI TO APRIL 17 ACADEMY AFFAIR IN PUBLIC.
FACT THAT IN MAY DAY ADDRESS SADAT MADE NO REFERENCE TO
LIBYA WHILE DISCUSSING ACADEMY ATTACK, AND THAT RECENT ARTICLES
IN CAIRO PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT (INCLUDING ONE OF TODAY, MAY 4,
BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY) HAVE GENERALLY AVOIDED MENTION OF
LIBYAN CONNECTION, ARE NOTEWORTHY IN THIS REGARD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, FEDERATION, JOURNALISTS, MILITARY SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO02818
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740108-0323, D740108-0355
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740574/aaaacoep.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CAIRO 2689
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOE DENIAL OF LIBYAN ALLEGATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005